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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 90, NO. 122

MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2007

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YADUM notebook

BREAKING NEWS

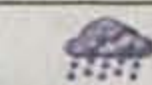
NOR'EASTER FLOODS THE EAST

A NOR'EASTER RAVAGED THE EAST YESTERDAY, GROUNDING AIRLINES AND FLOODING COASTAL AREAS. THE STORM COULD BRING SOME OF THE WORST FLOODING IN THE LAST 14 YEARS, ACCORDING TO CNN.COM.

LIFE & STYLE

INTERCULTURAL DATING

THE TOPIC OF INTERRACIAL DATING OFTEN OCCURS IN TODAY'S SOCIETY, BUT DO WE LOOK AT THE ISSUE OF INTERCULTURAL DATING? FIND OUT MORE IN LIFE & STYLE. **PAGE 8**



MON, 4/16:
FEW SHOWERS/
WIND
HIGH: 47, LOW: 36



TUES, 4/17:
PARTLY CLOUDY/
WIND
HIGH: 55, LOW: 42

Cook Hall Proves 'It's Not A Game' to Other Dormitories

BY DERELL SMITH
Senior Photo Editor

"ResFest: It's not a Game" was the phrase coined to represent ResFest 2007, but it seems many individuals took the spirit of competitive fun a little too far.

The step show was found to be exciting, interesting and fun by many of the attendants and participants.

The Bethune Annex and Drew Hall kept the crowd hype and asking for more with the Annex's rendition of the Cell Block Tango and Drew's unique three-part step team.

Still, it was the performances of Carver Hall, Cook Hall and the Tubman Quadrangle that surprised everyone this year. "Carver Hall was excellent at the step show, despite some technical difficulties in the beginning," junior English and classics major Jimisha Releford said.

The entire auditorium waited for Cook Hall to step as many in the audience knew their step team had disbanded earlier in the week and been reconstituted the night before. One of the members said there was no need to step since they had already won ResFest. Thus, the remainder of their time was spent taunting other dorms.

Yet the big surprise came when the winners were announced, as the Quad placed third, the Annex sec-



Though they did not fare well in the final weekend of competitions, Cook Hall maintained their lead through spirited cotention from Drew and Annex halls.

ond and Drew Hall first.

Many students strongly believed the Quad should not have placed at all and that Carver Hall should have been third. Among them is Kelauni Cook, a freshman biology major. "If anyone should be upset, it should be Carver," she said. "The audience's reaction to Carver was better than the Quad's. Carver was much more creative."

Sam Lockhart, a freshman political science major and member of the Carver Hall step team, said Carver Hall had to check with the officials concerning their

canes. They placed boards on the floor to prevent damage, unlike the Meridian stepers, who wore high heels.

There were rumors that Carver Hall was penalized for Greek-like behavior with the use of canes. However, LaResha Ross, the coordinator of ResFest, said, "There were concerns about the canes. However, due to the fact that Carver supplied protection for the floor, they were not penalized."

Drew Hall was also accused of disregarding rules. They are said to have stepped into the pit, which would have lead to disquali-

fication. Despite confirmed reports of this, Ross said, "Drew did not step on the pit. If they had, the show would have been stopped and the teams would have been reminded not to step on the pit."

Organizers of ResFest managed to reschedule field day and with it the final competition, flag football. Free food and prizes were given out, including \$100 in Dining Dollars and free student parking and housing, all of which were hidden in the stands for students to

See RESFEST, Page 3

WHUT Spotlights 2007 Graduates

BY BRITTNEY BLACK
Contributing Writer

WHUT's student training department, also known as Spotlight Network, has decided to send the class of 2007 away with a goodbye tribute they will never forget.

Project Graduation 2007 is a farewell video aimed at encompassing the experiences of this year, along with giving faculty a final opportunity to say goodbye to graduating seniors and graduate school graduates. The video took two months to complete and is tentatively planned to air April 30 on channel four. The video will also be shown at each individual school's graduation.

"We [Spotlight members] went to all the deans of the different schools, teachers and the Provost to get personal farewells and good byes," said LeeSandra Alexandre, a freshman broadcast journalism major and the assistant producer of Project Graduation 2007.

Alexandre, who organized the production, is now working along with freshman broadcast journalism major Curtis McCloud, freshman broadcast journalism major Jeremy Burkett, and Tlesha Brown to complete taping the messages.

"I was very surprised at how receptive the faculty was," McCloud said.

"We had deans stop in the middle of a busy day to record a message for the seniors. You could tell they really cared," he said.

The Spotlight staff has

made sure this will not be an ordinary farewell video.

"There will be a lot of creative aspects in this production," McCloud said.

"The messages that the faculty left are meant to give the graduating class the foundation they need to go out into the world and pursue their goals," McCloud said.

Project Graduation is a part of Spotlight Network news talk HU Today.

"Hopefully this project will let students see what Spotlight is all about and let the Howard student body know that there is a televised news media ready to inform them," McCloud said.

Television production major and executive producer LeRita Gibson-Reid said although the video is not yet complete, the finished product is sure to be a success.

"All of the faculty and teachers have been really cooperative," Gibson-Reid said. "And I believe that all the seniors will appreciate the messages by the Howard family."

Although this is the first year Spotlight has done Project Graduation, if successful, there are plans for the other classes to also have a video.

"I really hope that the Spotlight staff will continue this after this year," Gibson-Reid said. "The production for the class of 2010 is already in the works."

Seniors who want to be included in the video need to send at least three photos to hu.today@yahoo.com as soon as possible.

Team 1867 Takes National Intramural Championship

BY ELLIOT JONES
Sports Editor

Sunday, the Howard University intramural basketball team made history, becoming the first Historically Black University to win the National Intramural Basketball Championship. Team 1867 defeated Florida State, 51-44, in the championship game, which was held at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

"It's amazing. We're all speechless," said Victor Montgomery, head coach of Team 1867.

"It's one thing to win a national championship, period, in any sport. But it's more important for us because we are an HBCU," he said.

Team 1867 kicked off the tournament on Friday afternoon

with a win against the University of Michigan, then defeated Southern Illinois University, University of Northern Kentucky and Coastal Carolina University to advance to the title game.

The team's victory against Florida State gave Howard its first national championship in any sport since the 1974 men's soccer team won the NCAA Championship.

Montgomery described the final moments of the contest as "tense," but praised 1867's poise and focus down the stretch.

"With two minutes to go we were up by four," Montgomery said. "I'm extremely proud of our guys because no one started to celebrate too early or anything. [Florida State] kept hitting shots, but we made all of our free throws. When it got to

around 30 seconds left, we were up by five or six and that's when we started to realize that [we] might pull this off."

Prior to the national intramural finals, 1867 also made history by becoming the first HBCU to win back-to-back regional finals. However, before this year, the team had never advanced beyond the national tournament's round of 16.

Aki Thomas, an assistant coach for Howard's men's varsity basketball team and member of 1867, was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. Thomas was also named to the All-Tournament first team along with Charles Prince and Art Crowder.

Team 1867 competes in the National Intramural Recreation Sports Association (NIRSA),

which is comprised of schools that belong to Division 1 of the NCAA. Some teams feature Division I athletes who are sitting out for various reasons, including recent transfers and red shirts.

"You can see the difference right off the bat. It means so much to win it, especially after taking into account the high level of competition," Montgomery said.

Montgomery also pointed out the fact that on the same day his team was making history for HBCUs, Major League Baseball was celebrating the 60th anniversary of Jackie Robinson breaking the league's color barrier.

The team is expected to return from Columbus later today.



Photo Courtesy of Kerry Ann-Hamilton

Team 1867 made history by becoming the first HBCU to win the National Intramural Basketball Championship.

Schmoke Meets with Franklin to Discuss Abraham Lincoln

BY SIMONE WALLS
Contributing Writer

Sunday afternoon, people gathered at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church to hear well known history professor and historian John Hope Franklin speak on his views of President Lincoln and African-American history.

Franklin was born in Rentiesville, Okla. in 1912 and

graduated from Fisk University in 1935. He later went to Harvard University where he received a doctorate in history. Franklin began his teaching career at his alma mater, Fisk University and went on to teach at several schools, including St. Augustine's College, North Carolina College, Howard University, The University of Chicago and Duke University. He is best known for his work,

"From Slavery to Freedom," which he has continued to update and perfect over the years. In 1995, Franklin was also awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

An evenly mixed crowd of different races and ages gathered in the sanctuary to hear the Dean of Howard University Law School, Kurt L. Schmoke, discuss Franklin's views on

Abraham Lincoln's freeing of the slaves.

Schmoke was the mayor of Baltimore from 1987 to 1999. Schmoke also served as State Attorney and Assistant U.S. Attorney in Baltimore. Prior to this, he was a member of President Carter's domestic policy staff.

After being introduced, Schmoke opened the discussion by asking Franklin his

views on President Abraham Lincoln.

"There was an inaccurate distortion and exaggeration of Lincoln," Franklin said. "There is a temptation to place him on a pedestal, where he does not belong."

Franklin spoke of his early childhood in Oklahoma and how Abraham Lincoln was portrayed in both the black and white community.

"He freed the slaves, that's what we all knew," Franklin said.

Franklin went on to say many people were very much taken by what they were taught about Lincoln. He was perceived as an inspiration, as many people were oblivious to his flaws. According to Franklin, although he was

See FRANKLIN, Page 3

N.C. Central Chancellor Praises Students' Patience

BY RONY CAMILLE
Black College Wire

The Duke lacrosse case apparently has come to an end. Like many others touched by the ordeal, James H. Ammons, the chancellor at North Carolina Central University, is relieved.

"There is a lot we can learn from this, and I am just really proud of the NCCU family and [that] the larger community remained calm, even though there was a temptation to do otherwise," Ammons said in an interview with the Campus Echo, the student newspaper.

The chancellor praised members of the university family for their patience in the days when many were jumping to conclusions about the guilt or innocence of the lacrosse players, who were accused of rape.

Ammons spoke a day after state Attorney General Roy Cooper dismissed all charges against Dave Forker Evans of Bethesda, Md., Colin Finnerty of Garden City, N.Y., and Reade Seligmann of Essex Fells, N.J. The three men, former members of the Duke University

lacrosse team, were charged with the sexual assault, rape and kidnapping of a former NCCU student on March 13, 2006.

Crystal Gail Mangum, 27, who is black, was hired to perform as a dancer that evening at a Durham, N.C., house where members of the Duke lacrosse team held a party.

It was there that she claimed the three players raped her.

Cooper said on April 11 that his office dropped the case based "on the significant inconsistencies between the evidence and the various accounts given by the accusing witness."

The case put NCCU and Duke in the spotlight of the national media. But the two institutions were able to work together despite that.

They also began to listen to each other.

"We built [a] relationship with Duke University, especially with the student body, that had not been there before," Ammons said.

Student leaders from the two schools held meetings in the early days of the case to see

how they could improve their relationships.

In the fall, they hosted meet-and-greet events and outings to sporting events so that students could get to know one another.

In January, they came together to celebrate Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with an act of community service. As they packaged dry foods for people in developing countries, they created a social opportunity for students from the two schools.

The accused went to Duke and the accuser attended North Carolina Central. In April 2006, a month after the incident, members of the NCCU community held vigils in her



Battista McNeil, a senior in criminal justice at N.C. Central, participates in a April 3, 2006 candlelight vigil in support of the victim in the Duke rape case.

support. Many said she was "a fellow Eagle."

Mangum was taking courses in police psychology. According to documents obtained by the Campus Echo, she was an honor student.

Outside the McLean Hall dormitory, the university com-

munity showed its support for Mangum with four blue banners filled with encouraging words, such as "God be with you."

In January she gave birth to a girl fathered by her boyfriend, Orange County, N.C., records show.

Over the passing months, Mangum changed her story about the Duke incident nearly six times.

The faded banners are no longer hanging. Mangum is no longer enrolled at NCCU.

Students at NCCU have mixed feelings about the outcome of the case.

"Part of me is disappointed, but I am not surprised," said Mark Searcy, an education junior. "But you can't get mad, because we don't really know the story."

Latoya Williams, a sophomore mass communications major said, "I'm glad that the case is over with. I felt that she brought a lot of negative attention to herself and the school because she couldn't even get her story straight."

For Joshua Worthy, an environmental science major, it's time to look ahead.

"Whether being charged or not, both sides have suffered enough," he said. "Both have been tormented and humiliated. I think more could have been done in a shorter time, but now that it's all over, it's time to move on."

Campus Briefs



University of Miami Sophomore Killed by Train

Oxford City Police say alcohol played a role in the death of Beth A. Spiedel, 19-year-old sophomore at the University of Miami, who was struck by a train on Saturday morning,

according to The Western Star. Her body was found around 3 a.m. near South Locust Street in Oxford, Ohio. Spiedel was at some bars with her friends in the northern portion of the city before the incident, according to Sgt. Jim Squance. An investigation into Spiedel's death is continuing.

Study Finds Full-Time College Students Binge on Drugs

A study done by the Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University found that nearly 49 percent of all full-time college students binge drink or abuse drugs, according to the

Daily Collegian. The number translates into 3.8 million and was part of a report titled "Wasting the Best and Brightest: Substance Abuse at America's Colleges and Universities." The poll surveyed 2,000 students and 400 administrators between 1993 and 2001.

MySpace and iPods to Replace University Lectures

Glasgow Caledonian University Academy, in the United Kingdom, is already using research done by the school to use Palm Pilots and is set to use MySpace as tools for classroom communication, according to The Sunday

Herald. The university will encourage professors to podcast their class lectures so students can access them from anywhere. The university's business school uses Palm Pilots so students can take classes and communicate with professors during study abroad programs, holidays and work placement programs.

Clemson University Changes Admission Process for Student Athletes

Clemson University released a report recommending changes in admittance guidelines, according to ABC News 4 in Greenville, S.C. The changes in the policy will liken the admissions process for

student athletes who do not meet admission requirements to those of non-athletes. The report was developed by a task force appointed by Clemson President James Barker. The task force was commissioned to review the existing system of athlete admission and recommend changes to the system.

- Compiled by Drew Costley, Campus Editor
Information courtesy of www.western-star.com, www.u-wire.com, www.sundayherald.com, www.wyff4.com

Who Runs the Yard? Middle School Presence Raises Questions on Behavior

BY TRAVER RIGGINS
Hilltop Staff Writer

The breaking weather, however temperamental, has pulled hibernating students from their cozy wintertime lairs to the occasionally sunny grounds of the Yard to socialize, bask and just be students. Skirts get shorter, mouths may be a little looser and some students light up cigarettes to relax with friends.

Just across the Yard, however, lies the Howard University Middle School of Math and Science, a Washington, D.C. public charter school that opened last fall.

"If we're sitting in a group and they are coming around, we'll watch what we say," James Moant, a sophomore international business major, said.

Paul Organ, M.D., the

head of the middle school, said he hopes University students are able to acknowledge that there are younger students who are part of the Howard family now.

Organ has approached University students regarding their behavior around the middle school students, such as extremely casual or somewhat provocative dress and inappropriate language.

"It's fair for them to think not to change their actions, but also think twice because children don't necessarily have to be exposed to this at such an early age," Moant said.

Organ said, "I know it's a very delicate thing. How they dress for class is their own business." He added that students are usually accepting of his comments.

Some University students see the importance of cen-

soring what the students are exposed to.

"There are some things that [middle school] administration should keep from students from the simple fact that there is a major difference between middle school kids and college kids," said Milea Pickett, a sophomore history major.

However, others believe censoring may not be as effective as some say it is.

"Kids nowadays really already know what's going on at the middle school age," Moant said.

Gary Little, a sophomore film major, smokes Black and Mild cigars on the Yard, sometimes 10 times a day. He usually does it on the benches between Douglass and the Fine Arts building, but says the youngsters are going to be

See MS2, Page 3



Howard middle school students routinely walk in front of Locke Hall. Benches in front of the building are a resting area for undergraduate and graduate students who smoke.

Business Students Display Work at Parents' Weekend

BY EBONI FARMER
Hilltop Staff Writer

The School of Business came together this weekend for the 12th annual Parents' Weekend.

"The parents were very pleased with the events for the weekend. They were most excited to see how much their students have grown over the academic year. Parents' Weekend was huge success," said Tya N. Boyden, the director of the 21st Century Advantage Program (21 CAP).

Janine Rouson came to the event to support her daughter, freshman marketing major Cilicia James.

"I was very impressed with the program. It was good to see the progress that students have made throughout the year. The programs were all wonderful," Rouson said.

Parents' Weekend was sponsored by Howard University and 21 CAP, which was originally designed to be a retention program to increase the number of students who returned to the School of Business each academic year.

Today 21 CAP works to expose students to corporate sponsors so that they have more opportunities when it comes time to get jobs before and after graduation. Class of 2010 team leaders played

major roles in the coordination of the events, along with 21 CAP.

The weekend began on Thursday and ended on Saturday. Thursday's events began with a welcome reception for parents whose students are already in the School of Business and for prospective students along with their parents.

During the welcoming reception, a few teams presented what they had been working on throughout the year. On Thursday, teams and their corporate sponsors held an informational expo.

"I was excited to see prospective students. It's impor-

tant that we get the best and brightest students in the School of Business every year, and there were students who came for Parents' Weekend that would excel at Howard," freshman finance major Lauren Rogers said.

Parents and prospective students enjoyed a luncheon on Friday along with a fashion show.

Kristin Williams, a sophomore management major, coordinated the fashion show.

"We had a good turnout for the fashion show. We were competing with ResFest, but there were over 250 students and parents who came out to

the fashion show," Williams said.

Saturday concluded Parents' Weekend with an awards ceremony sponsored by Price Waterhouse Coopers.

Teams and individuals were given awards for their accomplishments throughout the year. Awards of recognition were given for various categories including team with the most outstanding presentations, company expo and best commercial.

There were also awards for team of the year and team leader of the year.

Charles Taylor is the team leader for team Two-J,

which won the team of the year award, and is very proud of his team and their hard work.

"It's certainly a big accomplishment to achieve for the entire team. We worked very hard during this school year, and it's nice that we were recognized for it," Taylor said.

Team leader of the year was awarded to Williams. "I was shocked. I didn't expect to win because all of the team leaders work so hard throughout the year," Williams said.

She added, "Each team leader is as qualified because we [make] a lot of sacrifices to help our team reach its full potential."

ResFest a Provides Fun, Game After All

RESFEST, from Page 1

In addition, there were performances by Broadway Miller, Lucky Seven, Profit and many more.

"This was the first year for ResFest that we had so many performers, and although it was a small crowd due to the weather, it was a success," field day coordinator Danielle Williams said.

The day came to a close with the announcement of the

flag football champions, the Towers. Following that was the awarding of the trophies for each ResFest event and ResFest overall. While Drew Hall and the Quad initially tied for third, penalties for late paper work put the Quad in third, the Annex in second and Cook Hall in first.

In the end, many students found ResFest to be quite enjoyable. "Being my first ResFest, I thought it had a very entertaining atmosphere," freshman human

development major Daneila Smith said. "However, as a member of the Cook Hall dance [team], I was one of the many targets for unnecessary drama."

Students like freshman history major Kia Debnam believe some took the competition too seriously. "Ninety-five percent of us will not live in the dorm we rep next year," she said. "In contradiction to the slogan, ResFest is just a game."

Concerns Discussed About Race Relations

FRANKLIN, Page 1

praised by the black community, the white community did not regard him with the same admiration.

Franklin believed blacks and whites could not live together.

"After the war, he took the view that blacks and whites could never live together, they should be transported out of the country," Franklin said.

Franklin spoke of how black delegates would come to Lincoln during the war to help them become more integrated in society, but they were sadly disappointed when Lincoln's response was maybe it would be better if they emigrated elsewhere.

"If Lincoln could save the Union by freeing some

of the slaves, or all of the slaves, he would. Although freeing the slaves was never his first priority," Franklin said.

"Do you think Reconstruction for the slaves would have been different if Lincoln served his second term and you think blacks would have received land?" Schmoke asked Franklin.

"I think not. If it would have been on his mind, he would have recommended it to his acquaintances. He did not have anything set in his works toward giving slaves any compensation or land," Franklin said.

Schmoke posed a final question in regards to race matters continuing to be a concern hundreds of years later. He asked Franklin if there is anything that could

have been done to help improve race relations.

"I think something could have been done. It was not enough to set the slaves free and pass the 13th and 15th Amendment. The slaves free and a mule was not enough, especially when they failed to receive either. The black population was poor and uneducated. Millions were left with nothing," Franklin said.

Brittany Rhodie, a junior, theater major, was present for the event and said, "It was an honor to hear him speak. I wish more people attended to hear his views on Abraham Lincoln and African-American history. I was fortunate to learn many facts that I can pass on to others."



What's happening in the Residence Hall?
"Hall Happenings"
 April 15-21, 2007

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

"As the World Turns: Regional Fashion Show",
 Bethune Annex, Cafeteria, @ 8:00 pm
 Tickets are \$2.00 in advance and \$3.00 at the door.

"Sacred Spaces: Love Thyself",
 Slowe Hall, Lounge,
 7:00 pm

Thursday, April 19, 2007

"Rape Awareness Program", (Drew Hall and Cook Hall),
 HU School of Business Auditorium,
 7:00 pm- 9:00 pm

Saturday, April 21, 2007

"Harriet Tubman Quadrangle Honors Program",
 Tubman Quadrangle, Courtyard,
 1:00 pm

Announcements:

1. Slowe Hall is empowering men and women to love themselves inside and out!!!! On Wednesday, April 18, 2007 *Sacred Space (from Slowe Hall)* will present *Love Thy Self*. AIDS HIV testing for males and females. Free coupons will be distributed for all persons tested to receive a free manicure and pedicure. Also, makeovers will be provided for raffle ticket winners.
2. Mays Hall wishes to extend a very special "thanks" to all of the HU off-campus students who participated on their ResFest team. It wouldn't have been the same without you!

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April 25 - May 10

April 25 - 27, Wed. - Fri. 9:30 - 5:00
 April 30 - May 4, Mon. - Fri. 9:30 - 5:00
 May 7 - 9, Mon. - Wed. 9:30 - 5:00
 May 10, Thurs. 9:30 - NOON

LAW SCHOOL BUYBACK:

Thurs., April 26, 10:30 - 2:00
 Wed., May 2, 10:30 - 2:00

Photo I.D. Required

We buy all books having resale value. In addition, books on retail list may receive up to 50% of purchased price. To view the 50% buyback list please visit www.bookstore.howard.edu/Textbooks/BuybackList.htm If you don't see your book on the retail list, please ask your professor, we may not have received an adoption.

Hey, Graduating Seniors!!!

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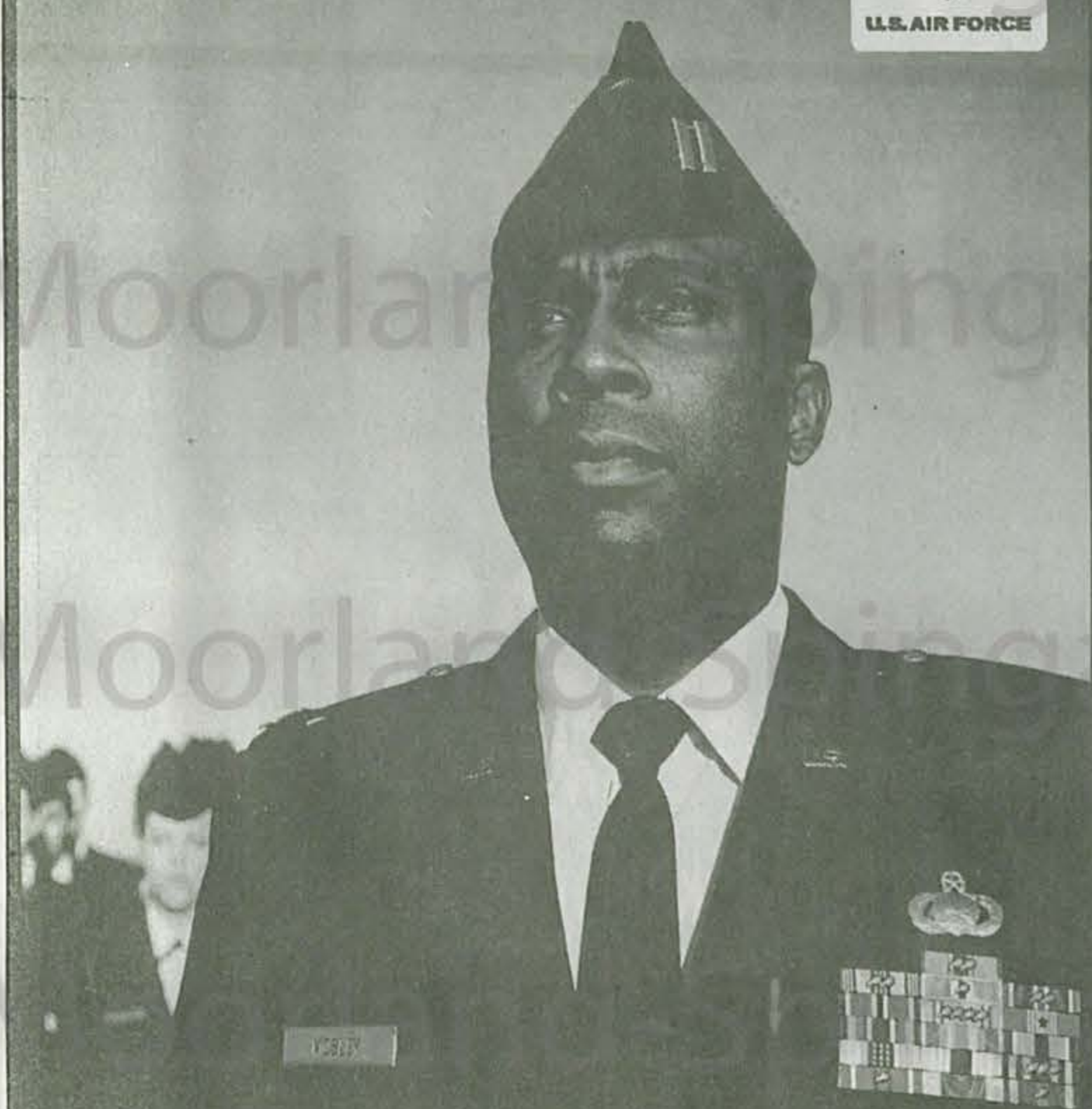
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of your years at Howard ?
Express them in the Graduation Issue of The Hilltop.

Submit your Senior Will TODAY!!
Just \$25 includes 100 words and photo.

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Submit materials to The Hilltop Business Office
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hilltopbusiness@gmail.com and/or (202) 806-4749

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WHERE INTELLIGENCE GOES TO WORK

Sizing System Makes Shopping Hassle Free

BY ALEXANDRIA FRANKLIN
Contributing Writer

Imagine stepping into a machine that takes body measurements and being able to buy almost any brand of clothing without trying it on in the store. The Intellifit System allows shoppers to do just that.

The Intellifit System is a machine measuring eight inches high and seven inches wide, and looks like a Star Trek Transporter, according to Time.com.

The machine uses low-power radio waves to scan a person's body while they are fully clothed, and provides customers a printout of up to 200 measurements to determine the most suitable sizes. Measurements are provided free of charge.

It is currently being tested in stores such as Macy's, Lane Bryant, David's Bridal and the Levi's store at Tyson's Corner Center in McLean, Va.

The Intellifit System was created to help people quickly find their sizes in many different brands.

The system can also assist manufacturers in making more clothing that fits a wider variety of consumers.

The company aims to help manufacturers make clothes that fit real people, according to the Web site www.intellifit.com.

Intellifit also says the machine is a mutually beneficial tool for both consumers and clothing companies.

Some Howard students agree, and believe using the machine could have many advantages.

"You want your jeans to



Photo courtesy of www.fche-hcfc.gc.ca

Department and specialty stores, such as Macy's and David's Bridal, are using a body measurement scanning machine called Intellifit to avoid trying on clothes.

make you look a certain way," said Ashley Irvin, a freshman fashion merchandising major.

"When you know your exact size, you can accomplish this faster."

Rickey Hughlett, a freshman advertising major, also said the machine could be very useful.

"Different brands have different sizes, so it would be beneficial for me to know which brand would help me get sexified," Hughlett said.

Paul McGehee, a junior political science major, said he does not wear fitted clothing, so getting his measurements from the Intellifit System is not necessary for him.

However, he said he could save time buying clothes since he does not like to try them on.

McGehee also said, "It

would be cool to see what my shoe size is," to make online shoe shopping easier.

Denesha Thompson, a sophomore political science major, also believes the machine could be timesaving.

"For the college student that doesn't have transportation, it can be inconvenient because you may not have time to go into different malls," Thompson said. With the machine, she said, "You can just order it offline."

Thompson also said, "Just because the machine tells you a size doesn't mean it will fit you because everybody has different body shapes. But if it's accurate, I would definitely use it."

Once a person has used the Intellifit machine, he or she can go to www.intellifit.com and shop for clothing.

The Web site guarantees that the garment ordered will fit, and the company promises to give a refund of the price of the clothing and the costs for shipping if the clothing ordered does not fit.

Innovative Laptop Designed for Needy Children

BY MORGAN LYNCH
Hilltop Staff Writer

A new laptop is being designed for underprivileged children in developing nations across the world by technology designer Nicholas Negroponte.

The laptop has a green and white plastic shell with a power-generating hand crank, and will cost \$100. The laptops have been named the XO. The final version of the XO is scheduled to be completed in August.

What is also innovative about the XO is its graphic user interface, called "Sugar." The interface replaces the usual desktop many computer users are accustomed to seeing.

With the desktop out of the way, a new icon representing the individual occupies the center of the screen. It also allows the user to "zoom out" like a telephoto lens and users see themselves in relation to friends and all the people in the network.

In response to the idea, Dr. Benjamin Taylor, a physical science professor at Howard University, said, "It sounds different. It is not obvious how you can go from this interface to things like Microsoft Word. Is that interface getting you to

things you need? Is it easy for kids? The icons must be obvious for everyone to use."

The concept has not received as much attention as some would think since it was brought about two years ago.

The creators of the XO hope to build upon what is available when it comes to computers. The idea came to Negroponte when he was chairman of the MIT Media Lab. He had the opportunity to observe the flaws of education systems and the failed attempts to integrate computers into classroom instruction.

It is a nonprofit with the idea of providing one laptop per child since children placed in special computer classes are often forced to share with one another. The children would be able to individually take the laptops between home and class.

Countries such as Brazil and Thailand are committing

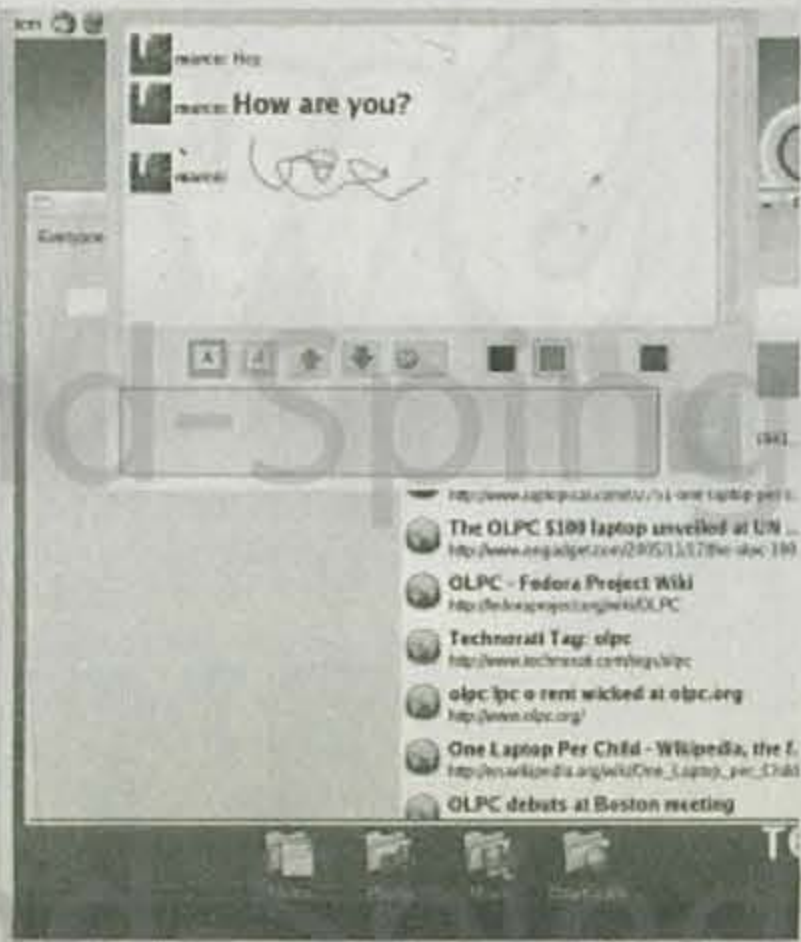


Photo courtesy of www.birminger.com

Skeptics of the XO have concerns regarding why designers did not pre-test their product.

to purchasing the new computers. They are being made in Taiwan and it is projected that 2,500 have been shipped since February.

The hand power-generated crank is another interesting feature of the XO. Some are concerned about the product's potential for longevity.

"It is cranking to electrify it, but it will not run out because you are constantly replacing that power source. I have a flashlight like that," Taylor said.

Even though many find the XO very innovative and it has been well-received, there are still some skeptics.

There is concern as to why Negroponte and his team have not pre-tested the product with customers, including the new idea of the interface. The designers say the concept stemmed from MIT's idea of "demo or die."

According to www.msnbc.com's John Maeda, a user interface designer told the XO's critics, "They're using the Steve Jobs method," in reference to Apple's famous chief executive and design whiz. "You don't use focus groups. You just do it right."

Taylor could not give a prediction of success he sees for the XO. "I can't even postulate on that. It will be very successful if the interface is easy to use. Whatever the navigation is, it has to be obvious," he said.



Photo courtesy of www.alpnews.com

The XO, a smaller sized laptop designed for children in developing nations, is powered by a hand generator.

Ancestry.com Reunites Families

BY MORGAN LYNCH
Hilltop Staff Writer

In 2006, Ancestry.com boosted its previously sizeable record database to five billion. This, according to MSNBC.com, makes it the most comprehensive genealogical database ever compiled.

Ancestry.com is a subscription-based Web site. The site is one of many for-profit genealogy trackers listed under a company called "The Generations Network," which was founded in 1983 and is based in Provo, Utah.

Ancestry.com is listed along with FamilyHistory.com and published Ancestry Magazine. Ancestry.com is also accessible in Canada, Ireland, Australia, the United Kingdom and Germany.

Recently, along with the help of Ancestry.com, a man was able to come across 1.7 million of his "closest" relatives. "Good Morning America's" Diane Sawyer was able to trace her roots and found she was a true Kentucky descendant as she believed.

A business reporter for the Chicago Sun-Times was able to discover generations of her family within hours. The Rev. Al Sharpton recently discovered, through genealogists, that his ancestors were owned by descendants of Sen. Strom Thurmond.

"I wanted to do it, but I was not willing to pay for it through Ancestry.com. I know there are places you can get DNA testing to find out specifically what nationality you are," said Nikita Ford, a freshman Afro-American studies major.

Many are curious as to how these records are even found. Tola St. Matthew-Daniel, a representative for Coltrini and Associates, which works with The Generations Network, said, "Ancestry.com has a team of genealogical specialists who retrieve documents and other historical records from across the United States and all over the world."

She added, "Ancestry.com has obtained, indexed,

digitized and made searchable online historical records from a variety of national, state and local libraries, archives and other repositories."

For African Americans, tracing their roots is not so easy. Africans are considered too genetically mixed to exactly pinpoint where they come from originally.

Scientists have started to use mitochondrial DNA, which is DNA that is passed from the mother to the daughter virtually unaltered. There is a tendency for more genetic diversity amongst Africans. Humanity has been discovered to have existed for the longest amount of time in Africa.

Only 10 percent of African Americans can trace their roots to one single ethnic group. "Because of slavery, we lost track of our roots and we need to know where we came from," Ford said.

To help specify and make the search easier, Ancestry.com launched a special section catering to African Americans looking to the Internet to trace their roots.

Consumers can be assured that records are accurate.

"The majority of records and historical documents on Ancestry.com are primary records, meaning they were created during our ancestors'

lives," St. Matthew-Daniel said.

She added, "The information in the records are as accurate as what was recorded. Birth, marriage and death records, and other government-created records, usually have the most accurate information. The census is usually quite accurate, but it's possible to find some alternate information."

St. Matthew-Daniel said, "Census takers went door-to-door, hand recording answers to the questions asked at each house visited. Thick accents and or interviewees guessing at answers sometimes led to variable spellings or dates."

Customer response thus far has been very positive for Ancestry.com. As of now, they have more than 750,000 subscribers, and their Web site receives 9.6 million visitors and more than 400 million page views a month.

Meredith Graves, a freshman nursing major, said, "Older generations know a lot more about our history and ancestry, and our generation doesn't try to improve their education on their history."

However, judging by the popularity of Ancestry.com, interest is growing in using the Internet to find lost ancestors and family members today.



Photos courtesy of www.ancestry.com

Historical government records are sources used on Ancestry.com to help users find family members.

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ATTENTION

HOWARD UNIVERSITY

UNDERGRADUATE & GRADUATE STUDENTS

President

H. Patrick Swygert

Campus Wide

Town Hall Meeting

WHEN: MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2007

WHERE: BLACKBURN CENTER

BALLROOM

TIME: 6:00PM - 7:30PM

Howard, Morgan State Continue Annual Tradition as Lacrosse Expands Reach

BY AVERI THOMAS-MOORE & CARYN GRANT
Contributing Writer & Sports Editor

The third annual Howard vs. Morgan State men's lacrosse game was held at Herring Run Park near Morgan's campus in Baltimore on Saturday. The Bears of MSU brought their record to 2-1 in the match-up as they defeated the Bison, 9-4.

The play was evenly matched throughout the first half, and the Bears led 5-4 at the start of the third quarter. However, penalties plagued both teams but crippled the Bison down the stretch.

"As a result of having fewer numbers [players,] the fatigue got to us, and the game just started to slip away," Bison junior defenseman Lawrence Spires said. However, he added, the effort was still there.

"We never really had any momentum and we didn't take good shots," senior Bison midfielder and captain Chase Wheeler added.

The Bison were shut out, scoring no goals, in the second half.

Despite the Howard players' feelings about their performance, Bears coach Lloyd Carter said he has seen "the level of play increase" since the tradition began in 2005 when history was made with the first all-black lacrosse game.

The creation of the Howard men's lacrosse club in the 2004-2005 season gave many of the players the opportunity to compete in a sport they had never played before.

"I always wanted to play, but I never had the opportunity," Wheeler said.

Carter hopes events such as these will influence both schools to allow the men's lacrosse teams to compete at the NCAA level.

For the last two years, the game has been part



The Howard men's lacrosse club faced Morgan State during the third annual All-Black Lacrosse Game.

File Photo

of the Melting Pot, a potluck picnic and tournament sponsored by STX, a lacrosse equipment manufacturer, and US Lacrosse, the sport's governing body.

African-American youth club teams compete against each other in a tournament and watch a collegiate game as a part of the organization's Bridge Initiative.

According to the US Lacrosse Web site, BRIDGE works to "provide integrated lacrosse instruction and life skills enrichment to youth from diverse and traditionally underserved populations."

A study conducted by US Lacrosse found that lacrosse has grown more than any other collegiate sport over the past 10 years.

Howard's Brent Robinson and Morgan State's Simon Benjamin have made efforts outside of their respective college teams to expand the sport's reach. Robinson founded the San Fernando Valley Lacrosse League in 2006 and Benjamin coaches the Rockland Middle School (Md.) lacrosse team with his brother.

Following Saturday's games, Wheeler said it was "nice to see young African-American kids playing lacrosse."

Saturday's tournament was organized by Donnie Brown, a BRIDGE coach and former member of Morgan State's Ten Bears, who made history as the first black NCAA lacrosse team in the 1970s.

The event attracted more than 270 participants between the ages of five and 14 mostly from Maryland and the Washington, D.C., area, but also from New Jersey and Brooklyn, N.Y.

"I got to talk to the kids and I'm glad to see that they are as proud of us as we are of them," Jamison Carter Scott, a junior goalie from Morgan State, said.

SCOREBOARD & SCHEDULE

SCORES

Lacrosse

Howard	8
Longwood	19

Howard	5
Villanova	18

Softball (MEAC Round-up, Lexington, S.C.)

North Carolina A&T	5
Howard	9

Howard	11
South Carolina State	3

Howard	8
Bethune-Cookman	7

Howard	#
Florida A&M	#

Howard	#
Norfolk State	#

TODAY'S GAMES

None

NBA Teams Look to Finish Strong, Raise Seeds Heading Into Playoffs

BY SIMONE WALLS
Contributing Writer

With the NBA playoffs starting Saturday, many teams are caught in a do or die situation, simply win or go home. As crunch time approaches, teams hanging on a limb are struggling to make the best of their final games and hope for a chance at the playoffs. Many teams are finishing their final games of the regular season as others will go on to compete for the title of the best team in the league.

Will the defending champions, the Miami Heat, be able to take the title once again or will the number one team in the league, the Dallas Mavericks bring the trophy to Dallas after years of continuous upsets?

Howard's assistant men's basketball coach, Matt Collier, prefers NCAA college games, but is willing to put his faith in the Dallas Mavericks.

"Dallas has the most talent and the most depth, which is most important going into the playoffs. If they make it to the Western conference final, they'll take it," Collier said.

And as far as the Miami Heat, Collier believes they have too many problems within their team right now.

"Shaq is in and out, James Posey

was arrested and Dwayne Wade is not playing one hundred percent," Collier said.

Many teams are on the edge, still hoping for a shot at the playoffs. Teams like the Orlando Magic, Golden State Warriors, Indiana Pacers, and Los Angeles Clippers are on the bubble. The Nets recently defeated the Pacers to put them on even thinner ice as they fight to keep their playoff hopes alive. The pressure is on for the Orlando Magic, who must beat the Boston Celtics to secure a spot in the playoffs.

Howard's senior forward, Darryl Hudson, is going strong for his favorite player, Kobe Bryant, and the Los Angeles Lakers in the West. In the East he is pulling for the New Jersey Nets.

"I have to go with the New Jersey Nets because my cousin, Antoine Wright, plays for them and I have to go with family," Hudson said.

Junior audio production major Erick Vilson is also pushing for the Dallas Mavericks. "The Eastern conference is very weak compared to the Western and the Dallas Mavericks have the best record overall this year, and they were close to setting records for the regular season," Vilson said.

Even though Dallas has the numbers and the strength to take it all,

other teams, such as the number one seed in the East, the Detroit Pistons, or the number two seed in the West, the Phoenix Suns, cannot be counted out. Anything can happen in the playoffs. As underdogs, the Miami Heat came from nowhere last year to steal the title. The number two seed in the East, the Chicago Bulls, have also improved from their slump over the years to land a secure position in the playoffs.

Currently, the match-ups for the East are the number one seed Detroit Pistons versus the number eight seed, the Orlando Magic. The Chicago Bulls will play the number seven seed, the New Jersey Nets. The number three seed Toronto Raptors will match up against the number six seed, the Washington Wizards. Number four seed and defending champions, the Miami Heat will play the Cleveland Cavaliers.

The current match-ups for the West are number one in the league, Dallas Mavericks versus the number eight seed Golden Warriors. The number two seed Phoenix Suns will take on the Los Angeles Lakers. The number three seed, the San Antonio Spurs, will play the number four seed, the Denver Nuggets. The Utah Jazz will play the number five seed Houston Rockets.

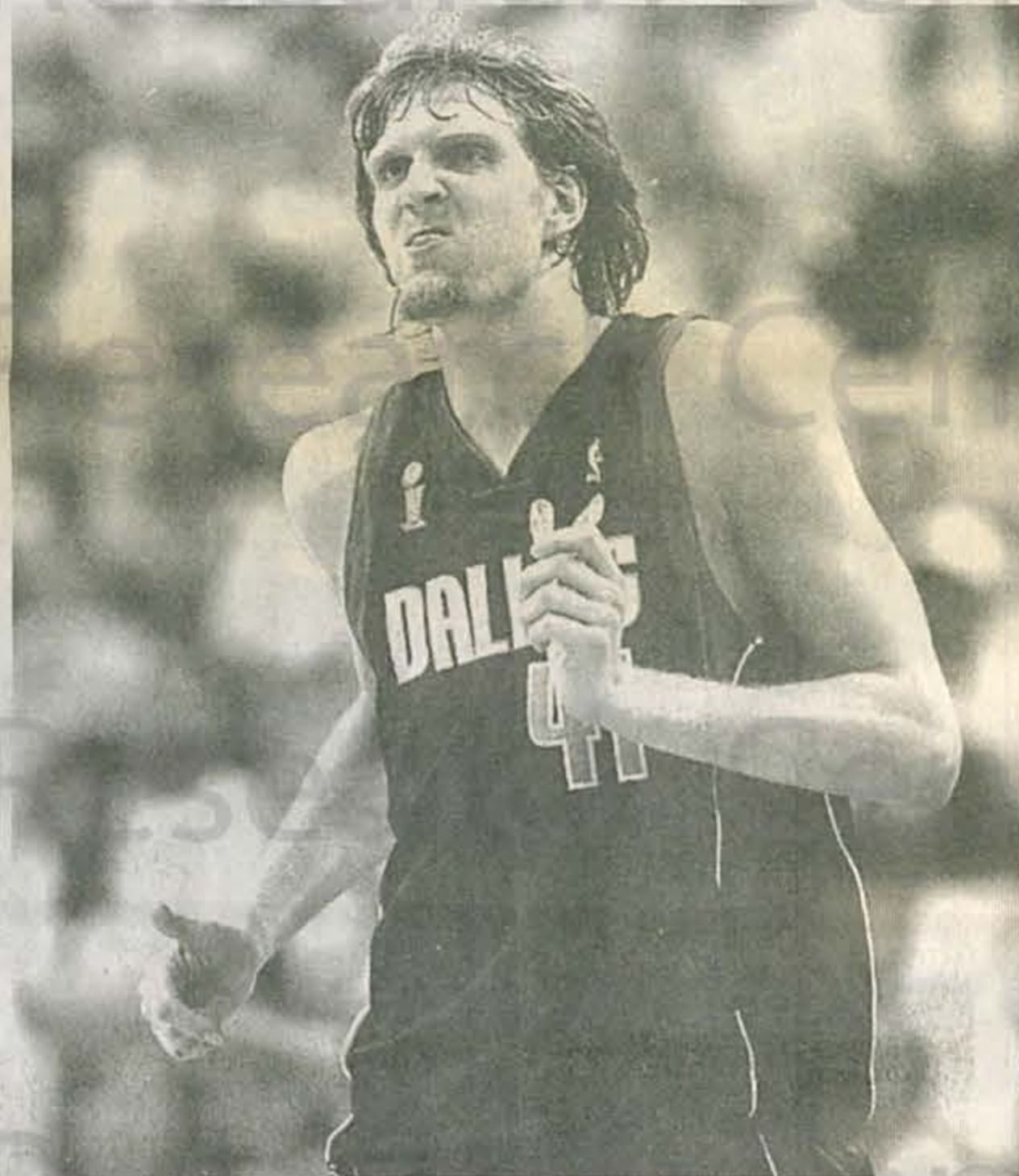


Photo Courtesy of www.mavericksland.com

Dirk Nowitzki and the Dallas Mavericks hold the top seed in the Western Conference and the best record in the league prior to playoffs.

Jackie Robinson Day 2007



Photos Courtesy of www.espn.com and www.foxsports.com

Numerous players in Major League Baseball wore the number 42 in commemoration of Jackie Robinson (right) Sunday as the league celebrated Jackie Robinson Day.

TODAY IN SPORTS HISTORY...

On April 16, 1980, tennis champion Arthur Ashe retired from professional tennis.

Students Crossing The Cultural Boundaries in Dating

BY JESSICA M. LITTLES
Contributing Writer

For decades, crossing racial lines while dating has been a taboo within the black community. However, within recent years, tolerance has progressed and it is no longer an anomaly to see a black man and a white woman walking hand in hand.

Many wonder if this same distance exist among blacks from different parts of the diaspora. Most students agree that there is limited interaction between the different cultures represented at Howard University, especially when it comes to dating.

Many believe Caribbean, African and black American students rarely cross the cultural boundaries in social interaction.

Edna Greene Medford, Ph.D., an associate professor in the history department, does not believe student apprehension about dating outside of their culture is any different than students being unsure about dating someone of another socioeconomic status, religion or even region of the country.

"There are certainly cultural differences to some extent. Background differences can cause clashing in any relationship," she said.

Medford added, "However, most people are not against dating someone outside of their culture, as long as the person shares similar values."

Darcelle Charles, a senior Spanish and French major from Trinidad, said cultures do mix, but couples need to have something in common.

"As long as a person is respectful then it can work. It is most important that we have the same values and the same goals," she said.

Medford agrees.

"Love conquers all, and if people understand there are differences whether it's cultural, or religion, or different philosophy of life. If they understand that going into the relationship, and they're willing to work through those issues, then I don't see



While interracial dating remains a topic of debate in the black community, dating among blacks of different cultures has its own implications.

it being a long-term problem," she said.

In addition to the cultural differences that may cause conflicts in relationships, there are also stereotypes and pre-conceived notions that may keep distance between the cultures.

Black men are often accused of being less respectful, while men from the Caribbean and Africa are thought

to be controlling.

"The beliefs about the roles in the relationship are really different. What a woman is supposed to be in a relationship and what a man is supposed to be in a relationship varies tremendously and that is hard," Meilani Clay, a freshman English major said.

Petronella Muraya, Ph.D., a Kenyan geographer in the history department, agrees and attributes differences in ideas about gender roles to the negative stereotypes black men face.

"In the Caribbean and Africa, the men are the head of the household, so a woman that comes to America and sees all these black men that

are in trouble legally and all these black men that are being raised by a single mother, then, they wonder why the black men are like that and it becomes the fear of the unknown and a lack of knowledge, not knowing that all black American men are like that," Muraya said.

Family may also be an influence in students' decision to date outside of their culture. Although some students insist their families would not have problems with them crossing cultural boundaries, others do have thoughts of what dating someone from another culture would be like.

Students wonder what older family members who may not have had exposure to blacks from various cultures would think.

"I was talking to someone from Africa earlier this year, and then later I was talking to someone from Jamaica, and my grandmother would be like 'don't date them, they're bossy and abusive to their women,'" Bianca Grant, a freshman psychology major, said.

Medford said, "I don't think that we should minimize the extent to which cultural differences might cause clashes, but I don't think that those differences are insurmountable."

Entertainment Report Card

Reggae Fans Choke on New Fishbone Album

BY DEANDRA WILLIAMS
Contributing Writer

What do fans get when they mix the Red Hot Chili Peppers and Beenie Man?

What you get is "Something Still Stuck in Your Throat," which is the latest album by musical group Fishbone.

The album, which will be released April 24 is the group's first offering in almost six years. Fishbone surfaced 22 years ago in Los Angeles and is now trying to become more mainstream.

The group's tour in support of the album begins April 24, 2007, in Austin, Texas and ends Aug. 25, 2007, in Los Angeles.

The group is comprised of members Angelo Moore, Norwood Fisher, John "Wet daddy" Stewart, Rocky George, Dre Gipson, Curtis Storey Jr. and John McKnight.

Moore and Storey provide the group's vocals while playing sax and trumpet as well. Gipson is on the keyboards, Fisher provides vocals while playing the bass, Stewart plays the drums, George plays the guitar and McKnight plays the trombone.

The band's music is a mixture of rock fusion, American ska and dark rock 'n' roll, which is something different to the music world.

Upon first glance, one might be led to believe this is the average reggae album, but upon deeper inspection, it is proven to be more similar to black heavy metal.

Although one might want to try something with a more eclectic style, this would definitely not be the album to try.

"Something Still Stuck in Your Throat" has 12 tracks in which



Photo courtesy of www.amazon.com

Fishbone tried to make a creative new sound with their album, but some may not enjoy the content.

the artists puts forth volumes of energy and shocking and sometimes offensive themes.

The songs on the album have titles such as "The Devil Made Me Do It," "Party With Saddam," "Faceplant Scorpion Backpinch," "Skank 'N Go Nuttz" and "Date Rape."

While some of the songs do a good job of displaying the hilarity the artists pride themselves on, other songs are very controversial.

"Date Rape" is an example of such controversy. The song is a narrative in which a man picks up an apprehensive woman in a bar, slips a date rape drug into her drink and takes her home to rape her. A line in the song even says "if it wasn't for date rape, I'd never get laid."

The song continues to say that after the victim wakes up the next morning, she calls a lawyer to take the rapist to court. The man is charged, incarcerated and then fellow male prison inmates rape him.

Date rape is a very serious subject and although the artist tried

to make light of the situation, it does not appear as amusing in any sense.

The loud background music mixed with the unsavory messages did not make for a good song. Many of the other songs on the album have similar messages, such as one suggesting that women fight while men watch.

Many may consider the sound and lyrics of the music disturbing or even label it "devil music."

The hard core tones are something the majority of students on Howard's campus will not find appealing. There is nothing entertaining about the disrespectful lyrics towards women. In addition, the over-the-top themes and high-pitched screaming are absolutely horrible.

The instrumental pieces, if you could call them that, are likely to give listeners headaches rather than entertain them.

This album is not to be recommended to a friend, or even a foe. So much for trying something different.

Grade: F

Cell Phone Designs Get Personal

BY AMARIS H. NOBLE
Contributing Writer

Iced out grills and diamond dripping chains have competition in the bling bling category. Mobile phone companies are teaming up with high-fashion designers to create flashy phones to attract the trendy, name-brand shopper.

According to the United States General Accounting Office report on Mobile Phone Health Issues, 16 million Americans subscribed to cellular phone services in 1994. In 2001, more than 110 million Americans became subscribers.

Experts also predicted worldwide membership would reach 1.2 billion people by 2005. These specialists were certainly on to something.

As cell phone usage escalates, handheld devices have become increasingly appealing to couture designers.

In August 2006, T-Mobile, along with Juicy Couture, Diane von Furstenberg, Dwayne Wade and hip-hop clothing brand LRG, launched limited editions of the popular Sidekick 3.

Many students, such as sophomore legal communications major Krystal Morris, are big fans of these phones. Morris was unsatisfied with a simple solid-colored T-Mobile Sidekick, and opted for Juicy Couture's \$399.99 pink Sidekick II.

On Oct. 24, 2005, the gadget was available online and in select New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami and San Francisco T-Mobile retail outlets.

"Before coming to college, I wanted to make sure that I bought an exclusive cell phone," Morris said. "At the time, no one had the Juicy Sidekick. It was so cute, so I got it."

A T-Mobile representative said special edition cell phones are strategically released in limited quantities.

"We only get a certain number of limited edition phones and before you know it, they are all gone," he said.

He added, "These phones are basically collectors items, and those who like them fight to get them."

Before it produced a rendition of the Sidekick 3, designer Diane von Furstenberg stepped outside the box and produced more than the all-purpose wrap dress.

In 2004, Samsung partnered with Diane von Furstenberg to create an exclusive electronic device, the VM-A680

DVF Mobile.

At the time of its release, only 1,000 DVF headsets were manufactured. The only thing exclusive about this, now \$49 phone was the signature DVF wrap dress that appeared on its red and black cover.

Junior engineering major Michael Ponder says major companies are money-hungry and manipulative.

"Companies make people feel like they need things that they can live without," Ponder said. "As long as I can make a call, I'm fine. Rhinestones, logos? All that is extra."

The metallic gold and silver cover of T-Mobile's Dolce & Gabbana (D&G) Motorola RAZR V3i was designed to catch the eye of glamour-seeking consumers. This palm-sized gadget is lightweight, but its \$399.99 retail price tag is guaranteed to break buyers' pockets.

Since its debut on March 8, 2007, another T-Mobile representative says the D&G RAZR is selling out pretty well.

"I am actually thinking about getting this one myself," the representative said. "I haven't personally sold too many D&G phones, but it all depends on the customer's preference and how much they like D&G. You are definitely paying for the name with this one."

Jessica Morris, a sophomore broadcast journalism major, said she and her pink Motorola RAZR are joined at the hip. However, Morris said special edition phones should be just that, special.

"Spending hundreds of dollars on a plain RAZR makes no sense," she said. "If companies are going to charge you \$400 plus, there should be features that are new and high-tech."

The effort to "keep up with the Joneses" is a historical American ambition.

Raja Staggers-Hakim studies sociology as a graduate student and says she is not a name brand kind of woman.

However, she said that humans' sociological needs to belong to a group, feel accepted and to compete convince many shoppers to spend a lot of money.

"There are people who feel that having high-end items justifies their existence and helps them to feel better about themselves," Staggers-Hakim said. "For some, it is a matter of confidence, and a lot of college students might feel this way."

While one's cell phone selection is a matter of taste, Staggers-Hakim also said the social pressure to conform acts as an incentive for pricey mobile purchases.

Sociology professor Rebecca Reviere said a designer phone is simply an example of nonverbal communication and personal expression.

"From a socio-psychological perspective, it is just a prop. Phones are becoming very personal, so it's not like the phone you put in your kitchen and never see again. This is something that will be seen almost twenty-four seven, so it's got to be really individual," Reviere said.



Photo courtesy of www.tendancetechnology.com

Improvements in cellular technology are helping consumers find new ways to personalize otherwise bland phones.

EDITORIALS

Perspectives

VOLUME 90, NO. 122

APRIL 16, 2007

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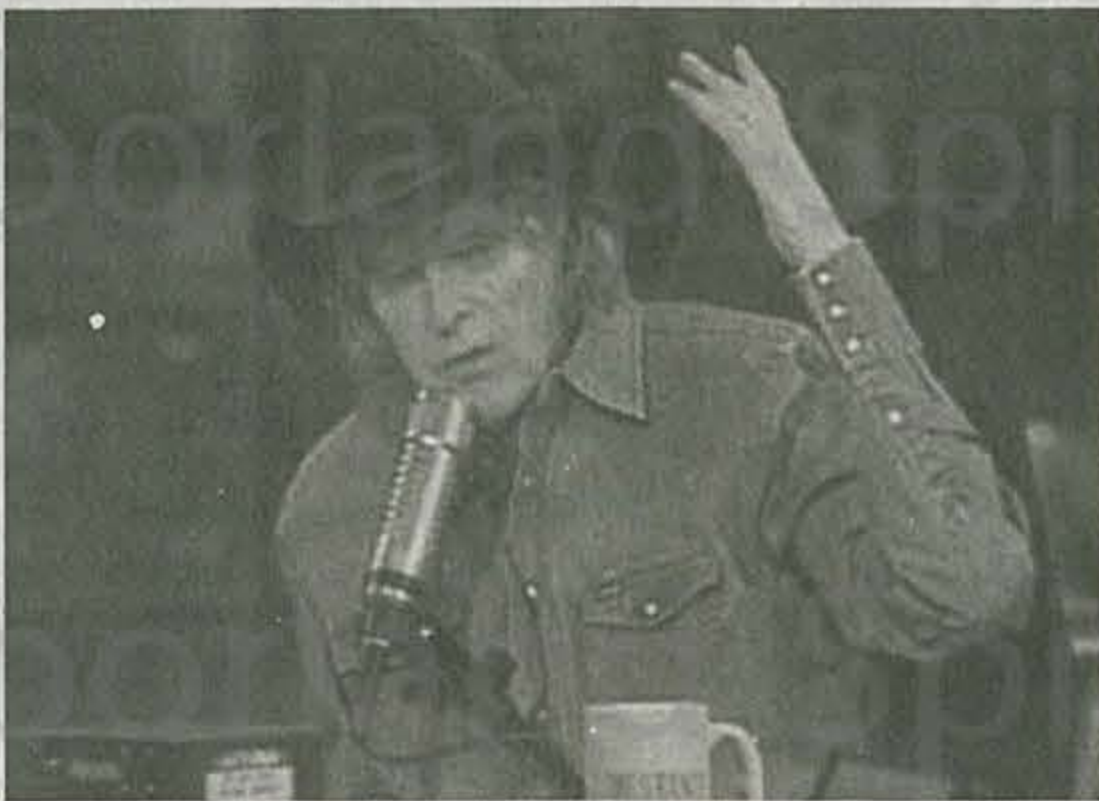


Photo courtesy msnbcmedia2.msn.com

One Voice Leads to Imus' Termination

"Nappy-headed hoes," and other insensitive and racially derogatory terms used on the Don Imus radio show, have resonated in the minds of many over the last couple of weeks.

This display of blatant racism and sexism was a reminder to the American public of the imperfect world we live in where bigots such as Imus still exist.

Imus was eventually fired in the later part of last week. Although this became a national issue, the entire uprising may be attributed to a lowly

Internet blogger.

Paul Waldman of Media Matters for America, a media watchdog organization, became the catalyst for the whole move-

nered national attention.

We, at *The Hilltop* would like to, first, commend Waldman for fulfilling one of the purposes of the media in being a watchdog for the public welfare. We would also like to commend organizations like the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) for taking immediate action on

the issue and the major advertisers who pulled out of Imus' show.

This is a testament to how one voice truly can affect change in our world.

Our View:

This issue shows how powerful the voice of one person on the side of justice can be.

ment against Imus by putting the remarks in the limelight.

Had it not been for Waldman listening to the show at 6 a.m., these controversial comments may have never gar-

Perspective: ResFest Academic Debate on Tuesday

I would like to express my disappointment in *The Hilltop*. You completely neglected the ResFest Academic Debate that was held on Tuesday. Your paper had a small blurb on the Family Feud event on Wednesday, and a rather long article on the dance competition in Thursday's paper.

However, the debate wasn't even mentioned. As a competitor, I find this insulting. I find it even more so in light of the events during the debate and your coverage of the dance competition.

To begin, as I have stated, I participated as a representative for Meridian Hill Hall, so you may consider my opinion biased with envy or see it as an attack on the other teams. It is not an attack and not motivated by envy.

I attack the shocking and irreverent way some of the debaters discussed the way the government works and the shocking bias shown by the judges, one of whom was reported to be an expert in the United States Constitution.

During the first round between Slowe and Cook concerning the HPV vaccine, one of the representatives of Cook said something to the effect of "People would rather be alive than free."

Excuse me if I prove to be incorrect, but isn't this country

based on a freedom so important that millions have died fighting for it, defending it and exporting it?

Didn't Patrick Henry say, to convince the founding fathers to commit troops to the Revolutionary War, "Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

It truly amazes me that someone who lives in this country cannot see that freedom is valued over such a paltry thing as life. Maybe this is why things are so bad today.

Maybe it's because our society is full of cowards who will accept life in chains simply because they were born into them, will submit to an oppressive government simply because that is what they are told they should do and will not fight for a freedom that others would gladly kill, rape, pillage, murder, cheat, steal and betray for.

Later in the debate, in fact during the debate in which Meridian lost to Cook, a representative from Cook yet again showed a lack of knowledge of the way things are supposed to work. He said to the effect of, and again I apologize for not remembering this exactly, "The

powers of the government are not limited to what is in the Constitution."

Again, correct me if I'm wrong, but Section Eight of Article One of the Constitution outlines exactly what the legislative branch can make laws about. It includes establishing a post office and patent office, coining money, which it no longer does, creating toll roads and even protecting us from pirates. Nowhere does it list anything about education, the topic we were debating.

Further, the First Amendment gives everyone freedom of, and from, religion. This means that no laws can be made based on religious teaching, to tie my first point about freedom to this.

Finally, the 10th Amendment delegates all further rights to the people or the states, making education at most a state-run affair. The idea that an expert in the Constitution could let this slide appalls me.

To close, I would just like to say that it is clear where your priorities are. You act as an opiate to the masses, one of many. You ignore an academic event for a "fun" pair. You help to further enslave an enslaved group of people, black and white. But as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!

- Cristin Chall

Perspective: The Martinsville Seven Reflections on Duke

In light of the dismissal of the Duke rape case, please allow me to share with your many readers a little-known story as to why rape is no longer punishable by death. It's the story of the Martinsville Seven, the largest mass execution for rape in U.S. history.

In 1949 in Martinsville Va., seven black men were arrested for the rape of Ruby Stroud Floyd, a 32-year-old married white woman. Within 30 hours of this rape, all seven had signed written confessions. Within seven days, all had been tried, convicted and sentenced to death. Two were tried at the same time. The youngest was only 17 years old at the time of his arrest and the oldest was a 37-year-old WWII vet with a wife and five young children. In February 1951 in Richmond Va., within

72 hours, eight black men were executed, seven for the rape of one white woman. The day before the youngest one died, he said, "God knows I didn't touch that woman and I'll see ya'll on the other side." Around the world, they became known as the Martinsville Seven, the largest mass execution for rape in United States history.

During their appeals, future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, then a young NAACP lawyer, helped represent the Seven, but three times the Supreme Court refused to hear their case. Russia and China sent telegrams to the White House in defense of the seven Negroes, where then President Harry Truman, a Klansman, refused to grant clemency. Although in the whole history of this great nation, no white man has ever

been executed for raping a black woman, these boys were electrocuted. Five were teenagers.

The Seven case was the first time in an American court of law that lawyers appealed a death sentence on grounds of systematic discrimination against African Americans. Finally in 1977, over 25 years later, the Supreme Court ruled that rape is not punishable by death. The Martinsville Seven case was instrumental in helping change the rape laws that govern this great nation.

For the record, three of the Seven were Hairstons, relatives of mine and I was born and raised in Martinsville. The true story of the Seven has yet to be told. Thanks for listening.

- Pamela A. Hairston
Washington, DC

Daily Sudoku

Directions: Each row, each column, and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1-9 exactly once.

				9	7	4	2	
	1				8			
		5	6					
	4	8						3
	9		3		8		6	
6						9	1	
					7	5		
		7					9	
4	8	6	5					

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THE HILLTOP

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